



# Canyoneering



*Travel in Zion's slot canyons has increased dramatically over the past ten years. Use limits are in place in canyons that require using ropes, and through hikes of The Narrows, The Subway, and Orderville Canyon. These limits are designed to minimize resource damage, provide for public safety, and assure an exemplary wilderness experience. As use increases new alternatives may be needed.*

## Current Management Policies

- Canyons in the Primitive Zone are limited to 50 people per day.
- Canyons in the Pristine Zone are limited to 12 people per day.
- Group size limit for all areas is 12 people.
- Commercial guiding is not allowed.
- All use (including day-use) in "technical" slot canyons is managed by backcountry permit.

## Issues to Consider

- Are expectations for solitude balanced with current use limits? Should group size limits be increased or decreased?

- Is commercial guiding appropriate within the primitive zone? Why or why not? (Primitive Zone canyons include The Subway, Orderville, Pine Creek, and Keyhole Canyons, and through hikes of the Virgin River Narrows)
- Spotted owls are a threatened species whose nesting habitat occurs in slot canyons. Should group size limits, closures, or other techniques be instituted to protect them during their nesting season?
- How can soil and vegetation loss be managed on access routes? How might access structures, routes, or techniques be used to protect these resources and the backcountry character of the area?
- What is your expectation of fixed protection (bolts) within recommended wilderness? Should the placement of bolts be managed?